

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01
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O 091516Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4857

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EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS, AG FLORES CONCERNED ABOUT LIMITA-
TIONS OF VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE AND MEXICO'S SOUTHERN
BORDER

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 5 FROM
ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) FLORES STATING THAT AN INITIAL
EVALUATION OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM SHOWS A DECREASE IN
MEXICAN PRODUCTION AND A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE
ARRIVAL OF DRUGS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. THE DECREASE IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION (OR, ALTERNA-
TIVELY, ITS DISPERSAL TO NON-TRADITIONAL AREAS IN MEXICO)
IS, ACCORDING TO FLORES, HIGHLIGHTING THE LIMITS OF
VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE. HE THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT
SERIOUS ATTENTION BE DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING A RAPID,
EFFECTIVE AND TRUST-WORTHY MEANS OF USING MODERN TECH-
NOLOGY TO DETECT ILLICIT CROPS.

3. THE INCREASE IN IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY COCAINE,
LEADS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO RECOMMEND INCREASED
ENFORCEMENT BARRIERS IN PANAMA, OR, IF THIS IS NOT
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POSSIBLE, IN NICARAGUA OR ALONG MEXICO'S SOUTHERN
BORDER. HE SUGGESTS, SUBJECT TO THE OPINION OF TECH-
NICIANS, THE POSSIBLE USE OF RADAR TO DEVELOP INFOR-
MATION ON SMUGGLING PATTERNS AND INCREASE THE PROBABILITY
OF INTERCEPTING FLIGHTS AS THEY REACH MEXICO.

4. FLORES WRITES THAT HE HAS ALREADY PASSED HIS IDEAS

TO HIS OWN TECHNICIANS AND REQUESTS THAT THE AMBASSADOR MOBILIZE U.S. TECHNICIANS TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE CONTENTS OF HIS LETTER BE TRANSMITTED TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL.

5. COMMENT: WE KNOW FROM AG'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER (BAEZA) THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL HIMSELF WROTE THIS LETTER AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITH HIS STAFF. DEPUTY AG ALBA-LEYVA, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH AG FLORES, RECENTLY ASKED EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS ATTACHE TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE INCREASED ENFORCEMENT IN SOUTHERN MEXICO. BAEZA HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT FLORES WILL REQUEST AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS BOTH THE COCAINE PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR A BETTER ILLICIT CROP DETECTION SYSTEM.

6. BEFORE WE HAD RECEIVED LETTER, FLORES CALLED ME PERSONALLY ON SEPTEMBER 7 TO SAY HE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING MY OWN REACTION TO THE SUGGESTIONS EXPRESSED THEREIN. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY PARTICULAR VIEWS ON WHICH AMBASSADOR AND I CAN DRAW?

7. COPIES OF LETTER BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, JUSTICE, AND DEA. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, MONITORING FACILITIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770327-0349
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770981/aaaacqot.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 724d9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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